

MAHONING COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE COURT DIVISION

Theresa Dellick – Judge
Anthony D’Apolito – Court Administrator
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mahoning County Juvenile Court Receives State Certification for the only Juvenile Sex-Offender Docket in the State of Ohio

Local Court Receives State Certification, June 25, 2014

The Juvenile Sex- Offender Specialized Docket of the Mahoning County Juvenile Court has earned final certification from the Ohio Supreme Court’s Commission on Specialized Dockets. The Courts’ Sex-Offender docket is the only certified Juvenile Sex-Offender Docket in the State of Ohio and the Courts’ fourth specialized docket to be certified by the Ohio Supreme Court.

In order to receive the certification, the local court had to submit an application, undergo a site visit, and provide specific program materials in response to certification standards that went in to effect in January 2014.

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor congratulated the Mahoning County Juvenile Court and Judge Theresa Dellick for receiving final certification.

“Specialized dockets have proven effective at addressing persistent criminal behaviors,” said Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor. “Specialized dockets result in significantly lower recidivism rates which means offenders become productive members of society, for which we all benefit.”

Specialized dockets are courts that are dedicated to specific types of offenses or offenders and use a combination of different techniques for holding offenders accountable while also addressing the underlying causes of their behavior. There are more than 150 specialized dockets in Ohio courts that deal with issues such as:

- Drugs and Alcohol
- Mental Health
- Domestic Violence
- Sex Offenses

The new standards provide a minimum level of uniform practices for specialized dockets throughout Ohio, and allow local courts to innovate and tailor to meet their community's needs and resources.

“As part of the disposition process, juvenile offenders are required to complete the Courts’ Adolescent Sexual Abuser Treatment Program. The eighteen month program includes but is not limited to individual counseling, group counseling, psycho education and reunification. The program has been very successful in deterring recidivism of sexual offense and has served as a model program for other Juvenile Courts.” -Judge Theresa Dellick

Recommended practices outlined in the certification process include establishing eligibility requirements, evaluating effectiveness of the specialized docket, and assembling a treatment team for implementing daily operations of the specialized docket. The team can include licensed treatment providers, law enforcement, court personnel, and is headed by the specialized docket judge.

The [Commission on Specialized Dockets](#) has 22 members who advise the Supreme Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning specialized dockets in Ohio courts; the development and delivery of specialized docket services to Ohio courts; and the creation of training programs for judges and court personnel. The commission makes all decisions regarding final certification.